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a linkage assembly for pivoting said guard in relation to said deck, a first portion of said linkage assembly being mounted to said guard and a second portion of said linkage assembly being mounted to said deck.

36. The mower head of claim 35 wherein said linkage assembly first portion comprises a first flange and wherein said linkage assembly second portion comprises a second flange.

37. The mower head of claim 36 wherein said linkage assembly further comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, wherein one of said hydraulic cylinder and piston is connected to said first flange and another of said hydraulic cylinder and piston is connected to said second flange.

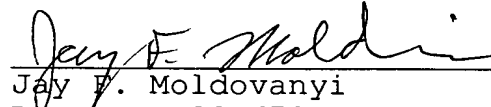
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Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to substantive examination of the application. These changes are submitted to place the application in better form for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

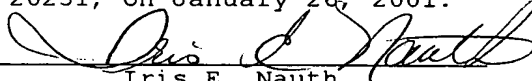


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 26, 2001.

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